



Uttarakhand Government Seals Multiple Madrasas

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government has sealed 52 [madrasas](#) across the state. Muslim organizations have criticized the crackdown on [minority religious institutions](#).

Key Points

- **Madrasas Sealed Across the State:**
 - Government officials cited **illegal and unauthorized construction** as the primary reason.
 - **Some institutions were found unregistered** and operating without recognition.
 - The identification **drive against minority institutions began in January 2024** following orders from the State Chief Minister.
 - The CM reiterated the commitment to act **against illegal construction and encroachment**.
- **Statewide Crackdown on Illegal Encroachments:**
 - In 2023, the government launched a **statewide drive against illegal encroachments on forest land**.
 - Over 450 Mazars (minority religious structures) and 50 temples were demolished across Uttarakhand as part of the campaign.

Madrasas

- Madrasa is an **Arabic word** for an **educational institution**.
- Initially, [mosques](#) served as educational institutions in early Islam, but by the 10th century, madrasas evolved into distinct entities for both religious and secular learning in the Islamic world.
- The earliest madrasas were found in [Khorasan](#) and [Transoxania \(modern eastern and northern Iran, central Asia, and Afghanistan\)](#), with larger institutions providing housing for students, especially those from poor backgrounds.
- Recognized madrasas are **under state boards**; unrecognized ones follow curricula from major seminaries like [Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama and Darul Uloom Deoband](#).

Encroachment

- It is the **unauthorised use or occupation of someone else's property**. This can occur on abandoned or unused spaces if the legal owner is not actively involved in its upkeep. It is important for **property owners to be aware of the legal steps** to take and their rights in such cases.
- Urban encroachment refers to the **unauthorised occupation** or use of land or property within urban areas.
- This could include **illegal construction, squatting, or any other form of occupation** without proper permission or legal rights.
 - Land encroachment, as defined by **Section 441 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860**, is the act of unlawfully entering someone else's property without permission to commit an offence, threaten possession of the property, or stay on the land uninvited.

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